

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 – 9. (Cancelled)

10. (New) A method for the manufacture of protective tubes, comprising:

obtaining a plurality of flat knitted fabric bands, comprising polyester threads via a Raschel flat type of loom; and

shaping the flat knitted fabric bands so that longitudinal ends of each band join together and overlap, wherein the polyester threads of the flat knitted fabric are disposed in P-1 and P-2 comb linking structure in a three combs (P-1, P-2, and P-3) Raschel loom,

wherein the overlap of the longitudinal ends are at least 50% of a tubular shape from which the protective tube is determined.

11. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein the P-1 comb linking structure handles polyester monofilaments while the P-2 comb linking structure handles polyester multifilament 500 dtex.

12. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein movements of the P-1 and P-2 combs are for P-1: linked to stud chain, and for P-2: linked to knitting.

13. (New) The method as in claims 10, 11, and 12, wherein the shaping is carried out by making each one of the flat bands pass through some elements whose transversal section

is gradually reduced.

14. (New) The method as in claims 10, 11, and 12, wherein the shaping is carried out at temperatures between 150 degrees C and 400 degrees C.

15. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the flat bands advance in a shaping stage at an approximate speed of between 5 - 15 meters/minute.

16. (New) The method as in claims 10, 11 and 12, wherein the shaping stage includes impregnation of the flat bands with a shaping product.

17. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein the shaping product is silicone or resin.

18. (New) The method as in claims 10, 11, and 12, further comprising a stage for adhesion of a sheet to the flat bands prior to the shaping.

19. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein the sheet is made of aluminum and polyester.